



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

February 21, 2007

MR WILLIAM J MAXWELL
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
608 SOUTH WRIGHT STREET
URBANA, IL 61801

Subject: JOHNSON, GEORGIA DOUGLAS

FOIPA No. 1063391- 000

Dear Requester:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Form OPCA-16a:

Section 552

- ☐ (b)(1)
☒ (b)(2)
☐ (b)(3) _____

☐ (b)(4)
☐ (b)(5)
☒ (b)(6)

- ☐ (b)(7)(A)
☐ (b)(7)(B)
☒ (b)(7)(C)
☐ (b)(7)(D)
☐ (b)(7)(E)
☐ (b)(7)(F)
☐ (b)(8)
☐ (b)(9)

Section 552a

- ☐ (d)(5)
☐ (j)(2)
☐ (k)(1)
☐ (k)(2)
☐ (k)(3)
☐ (k)(4)
☐ (k)(5)
☐ (k)(6)
☐ (k)(7)

6 page(s) were reviewed and 6 page(s) are being released.

☐ Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning other Government agency(ies) [OGA]. This information has been:

- ☐ referred to the OGA for review and direct response to you.
☐ referred to the OGA for consultation. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is finished.

☒ You have the right to appeal any denials in this release. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Director, Office of Information and Privacy, U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001 within sixty days from the date of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

☐ The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown, when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s).

If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

☐ See additional information which follows.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", followed by a stylized flourish or number "3".

David M. Hardy
Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS**SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552**

- (b) (1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order;
- (b) (2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b) (3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b) (4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b) (5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b) (6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b) (7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b) (8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b) (9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d) (5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j) (2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k) (1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k) (2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k) (3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k) (4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k) (5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k) (6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k) (7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **WASHINGTON, D. C.**

FILE NO. **19-34**

b2

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 3-15-45	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/21, 27/45	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> WGB:EC
TITLE MRS. HENRY LINCOLN JOHNSON, with aliases, Mary Strong, Georgia Douglas Johnson, Paul Tremaine, Nina Temple, Niniva Gladstone			CHARACTER OF CASE * PEN-PAL CLUBS CENSORSHIP MATTERS

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject using name **MARY STRONG** continues Washington Social Letter Club originally organized about eighteen years ago. Subject makes no direct solicitation for members among service personnel. These people learn of club through newspaper advertisements and from members of club and make application for membership. Subject states only girls well known to her for loyalty and patriotism are given names of servicemen for purpose of correspondence in accordance with advice received by her from Office of Censorship.

- C -

DETAILS:

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

This investigation is predicated on a letter dated January 3, 1945 from Confidential Informant enclosing a communication from Headquarters, United States Forces, India-Burma Theater, Office of the Theater Censor, dated November 21, 1944, containing an endorsement of Headquarters, Army Service Forces, Intelligence Division, Washington, D. C., which advised in paragraph two of the endorsement as follows:

AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON 12-31-2006

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Lucy Hottel</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-right: 10px;"> 5 Bureau 1 G-2, MDW 2 Washington Field </div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">COPY IN FILE</div> </div>		19-1120-1 <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">F</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">B</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">F</div> </div> MAY 17 1945	RECORDED & INDEXED 1-1

COPY DESTROYED
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"Solicited communications between persons in or attached to the military service and unknown civilians, wherever located, are prohibited under the provisions of paragraph 13e FM 30-28, entitled "Military Intelligence Military Censorship."

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Paragraph three of the endorsement requested that MARY STRONG, Box 6435, Washington, D. C., be contacted and advised that "Pen Pal" letters are condemned under existing censorship regulations and that military personnel are discouraged in engaging in this type of correspondence. Also transmitted were two original applications from servicemen in the India-Burma Theater for membership in the Washington Social Letter Club run by MARY STRONG, Post Office Box 6435, Washington, D. C. Confidential Informant ☐ transmitted these items for information and such action as might be deemed advisable.

MARY STRONG was interviewed at her residence at 1461 S Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., and stated that her true name is Mrs. HENRY LINCOLN JOHNSON and that she is presently employed in the Production Division of the United States Maritime Commission, 19th and B Streets, Northeast, Washington, D. C., as a CAF-2 Clerk. She advised that as a writer she has been known by numerous names among which are GEORGIA DOUGLAS JOHNSON, PAUL TREMAINE, NINA TEMPLE, NINIVA GLADSTONE and that she conducts the Washington Social Letter Club under the name of MARY STRONG.

Mrs. JOHNSON advised that the Washington Social Letter Club has been in existence about eighteen years and is registered with the Recorder of Deeds, Washington, D. C. She stated that in conducting the business of the Club, she places advertisements in most of the negro newspapers in the Eastern and Southern states and develops her clientele in that way. She stated that she does not solicit members of the Armed Forces to join her club but that they learn of it through the advertisements in the newspaper and through other servicemen who are already members of the Club. She stated that the servicemen then write to her asking for application blanks which she sends to them.

Mrs. JOHNSON further stated that she had had some correspondence with the Office of Censorship during 1943 concerning the request of two servicemen from Selfridge Field. These servicemen had written to a newspaper, "The Pittsburgh Courier" requesting that their letter be published which asked individuals to write to them since they were lonely and received very little mail. Mrs. JOHNSON submitted this letter to the Office of Censorship for

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advice. Under date of July 17, 1943, the Office of Censorship replied to Mrs. JOHNSON as follows:

Office of Censorship
Washington, D. C.
July 17, 1943

Miss Georgia Douglas Johnson
Box 6435
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss JOHNSON:

"We are returning the letter from two soldiers addressed to the "Pittsburgh Courier" and requesting correspondence. Publication of their letter or their names and addresses in an appeal for correspondence would violate the request we made of you in January and which you assured us you would follow.

"However, if you wish to give these addresses to some of your personal friends so they can write to the boys, this office will offer no objection because that does not involve publication.

"The War Department requests its men not to write to strangers and has appealed to the public not to write to strange men in the service. Your plan of having your friends write to the soldiers would be a matter for your judgment.

"We appreciate your inquiry and invite your questions at any time.

Sincerely yours,
Jack Lockhart
Acting Assistant Director
(Press)"

Mrs. JOHNSON stated that based on this letter from Censorship when transmitting application blanks to servicemen who write, she also sends them a mimeographed sheet reading as follows:

"Box 6435 Washington, D. C.
Washington Social Letter Club

"In accordance with OUR GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST I am only sending you ladies to write to whom I know personally. Those

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I can vouch for their loyalty to the Army. I am therefore sending you War workers and personal friends and writing to you MYSELF also sending you papers from time to time.

"When the War IS WON as I know it will be VERY SOON, you will have a much wider range of correspondents. But while the war is on I must restrict you to loyal people as above stated.

"You have fought bravely and the PEACE is almost in sight. You will soon come marching home and I shall see that you have friends to welcome you.

"No matter how you may be broken by the war, don't be discouraged for these friends WILL REMAIN TRUE in spite of any handicap you may have suffered.

"SO, please remember, you have a friend in MARY STRONG who will give you other friends just as loyal. They will not turn away from you, no matter what your loss - they will feel all the closer to you - not in sympathy, but in ADMIRATION!

"Yours for winning the War and happiness in the COMING PEACE.

MARY STRONG"

Mrs. JOHNSON advised that at the present time she only gives the names of servicemen to girls whom she knows well and whom she has no reason to suspect anything but patriotic and loyal American citizens. She stated that these girls are mostly government employees.

Mrs. JOHNSON was advised of the War Department regulations regarding soliciting communications between persons in or attached to the military service and unknown individuals, and was also advised that under existing regulations letters of this type were condemned by the Military Censors.

Mrs. JOHNSON further advised that her name appeared in the publication "Who's Who in the Nation's Capitol" under the name of GEORGIA

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DOUGLAS JOHNSON. It is observed that her name actually is included in this publication on page 447. This notation is not quoted herein.

Inasmuch as no further investigation in this case is indicated, it is being closed on the authority of the Special Agent In Charge.

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CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

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b7C

[REDACTED] Military District of Washington, Washington,
D. C.